

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for searching through ink characters within an electronic document comprising ~~the steps of:~~

(a) accepting, by a computer, a search query, where the search query comprises a search query word and a list of electronic documents containing the electronic document;

(b) retrieving a search query character from ~~[[a]]~~ the search query word in the search query;

(c) accepting an ink word from the electronic document;

(d) accepting an ink alternate word, wherein the ink alternate word is an estimation of the ink word;

(e) retrieving an ink alternate character for the ink alternate word;

(f) determining ~~[[if]]~~ when the ink alternate character matches the search query character; ~~[[and]]~~

(g) repeating stages ~~steps~~ (d)-(f) for a plurality of ink alternate characters; ~~[[.]]~~

(h) returning a match list of the ink alternate character matches resulting from stage (f).

2. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of Claim 1 further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

accepting another ink alternate character for the ink alternate word in response to a positive determination that the ink alternate character matches the search query character;

accepting another search query character from the search query word;

determining ~~[[if]]~~ when the other ink alternate character matches the other search query character;

determining ~~[[if]]~~ when the other search query character is the last character in the search query word in response to a positive determination that the other ink alternate character matches the other search query character; and

sending a match to the match list in response to a positive determination that the other search query character is the last character in the search query word.

3. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 1 further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

determining ~~[[if]]~~ when the search query contains another search query word;

retrieving a search query character of the other search query word in response to a positive determination that the search query contains the other search query word; and

determining ~~[[if]]~~ when the search query character of the other search query word matches the ink alternate character of the ink alternate word.

4. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 1 further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

(a) accepting another ink alternate word in response to a determination that the ink alternate character does not match the search query character;

(b) retrieving an ink alternate character for the other ink alternate word;

(c) determining ~~[[if]]~~ when the ink alternate character for the other ink alternate word matches the search query character; and

(d) repeating steps a-c for a plurality of ink alternate words.

5. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in Claim 1.

6. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for searching within an electronic document comprising ~~the steps of~~:

accepting, by a computer, a search query comprising a search query word to be sought in the electronic document;

determining ~~[[if]]~~ when the search query word matches at least one set of characters in the electronic document;

adding a match to a match list in response to a positive determination that the search query word matches the set of characters in the electronic document; ~~[[and]]~~

processing a boolean operator in the search query;

determining when the match to the first query word before the boolean operator and the match to the first query word after the boolean operator satisfy a

spatial relationship, the spatial relationship being satisfied when the match to the first query word before the boolean operator and the match to the first query word after the boolean operator occur within a portion of the document currently displayed in a viewable area;

displaying at least one match from the match list by highlighting the set of characters in the electronic document that correspond to the match of the search query.

7. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 6 further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

- (a) retrieving document content from the electronic document;
- (b) accepting at least one document content character from the document content;
- (c) determining ~~[[if]]~~ when additional document content exists in the electronic document; and
- (d) repeating steps a-c for the additional document content.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim ~~[[8]]~~ 6, wherein ~~the step of~~ processing a boolean operator in the search query comprises:
accepting the boolean operator from the search query;

accepting a match to a first query word before the boolean operator from the match list;

accepting a match to a first query word after the boolean operator from the match list;

determining [[if]] when the match to the first query word before the boolean operator and the match to the first query word after the boolean operator satisfy a spatial relationship; and

removing from the match list the match to the first query word before the boolean operator and the match to the first query word after the boolean operator in response to a failure to satisfy the spatial relationship.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 9, wherein the spatial relationship is satisfied [[if]] when the match to the first query word before the boolean operator and the match to the first query word after the boolean operator occur within the same paragraph of the electronic document.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 9, wherein the spatial relationship is satisfied [[if]] when the match to the first query word before the boolean operator and the match to the first query word after the boolean operator occur within the same page of the electronic document.

12. (Original) The computer-implemented method of Claim 6, wherein the step of displaying the matches further comprises:

sorting the matches in the match list;
identifying the match in the match list that is closest to a match point in the electronic document;
navigating through the electronic document to the match closest to the match point; and
selecting the match closest to the match point.

13. (Original) The computer-implemented method of Claim 12, wherein the match point comprises the cursor location in the electronic document.

14. (Original) The computer-implemented method of Claim 12, wherein sorting the matches comprises sorting the matches in the match list by the page number in which the match is located in the electronic document.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 6 further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

- (a) sorting a plurality of matches in the match list by page number in the electronic document;
- (b) accepting a first match and a second match from the match list;
- (c) determining ~~[[if]]~~ when at least one character is between the document content characters corresponding to the first match and the second match in the electronic document;

(d) merging the first match and the second match in the match list in response to a negative determination of at least one character between the document content characters corresponding to the first match and the second match;

(e) retrieving a next match in the match list; and

(f) repeating steps b-e for the plurality of matches in the match list.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 6, wherein ~~the step of~~ determining ~~[[if]]~~ when the search query word matches at least one set of characters in the electronic document comprises:

accepting one of the search query words from the search query;

retrieving one of a plurality of search query characters from the search query word;

accepting a document content character from the electronic document;

determining ~~[[if]]~~ when the document content character is an ink character or a text character;

conducting a text character match in response to a determination that the document content character is a text character; and

conducting an ink character match in response to a determination that the first document content character is an ink character.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 16, wherein ~~the step of~~ conducting a text character match comprises:

comparing the document content character to the search query character to determine if the characters match;

determining ~~[[if]]~~ when the search query word contains additional characters in response to a positive determination that the search query character matches the document content character;

retrieving another one of the search query characters in response to a positive determination that the search query word contains additional characters; and

sending a match to the match list in response to a negative determination that the search query word contains additional characters.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 17 further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

determining ~~[[if]]~~ when the electronic document comprises a next document content character in response to a negative determination that the search query character matches the document content character;

retrieving the next document content character in response to a positive determination that the electronic document comprises the next document content character; and

comparing the search query character to the next document content character to determine ~~[[if]]~~ when the characters match.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of Claim 18 further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

determining ~~[[if]]~~ when the search query contains another search query word;
retrieving a search query character of the other search query word in response
to a positive determination that the search query contains the other search query
word; and
comparing the document content character to the search query character of
the other search query word to determine if the characters match.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 16,
wherein ~~the step of~~ conducting an ink character match comprises:

- (a) accepting an ink alternate word, wherein the ink alternate word is an
estimation of the actual ink word received by the electronic document;
- (b) retrieving an ink alternate character for the ink alternate word;
- (c) determining ~~[[if]]~~ when the ink alternate character matches the search
query character;
- (d) accepting another ink alternate word in response to a determination that
the ink alternate character does not match the search query character; and
- (e) repeating stages ~~steps~~ b-d for the other ink alternate word.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of Claim 20
further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

- accepting another ink alternate character for the ink alternate word;
- accepting another search query character from the search query word;

determining ~~[[if]]~~ when the other ink alternate character matches the other search query character;

determining ~~[[if]]~~ when the other search query character is the last character in the search query word in response to a positive determination that the other ink alternate character matches the other search query character; and

sending a match to the match list in response to a positive determination that the other search query character is the last character in the search query word.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 20 further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

determining ~~[[if]]~~ when the search query contains another search query word;

retrieving a search query character of the other search query word in response to a positive determination that the search query contains the other search query word;

determining ~~[[if]]~~ when the search query character of the other search query word matches the ink alternate character of the ink alternate word.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of Claim 16 further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

determining ~~[[if]]~~ when the electronic document comprises additional document content characters;

retrieving a next document content character in response to a positive determination that the electronic document comprises additional document content characters; and

determining ~~[[if]]~~ when the next document content character is an ink character or a text character.

24. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in Claim 6.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium which stores a set of having computer-executable instructions which when executed performs a method for providing ink alternates and plain text search, the method executed by the set of instructions searching within an electronic document comprising the steps of:

accepting, in a computer, a search query comprising a search query word to be sought in the electronic document;

determining ~~[[if]]~~ when the search query word matches at least one set of characters in the electronic document;

adding a match to a match list in response to a positive determination that the search query word matches the set of characters in the electronic document;

sorting a plurality of matches in the match list;

identifying a match in the match list that is closest to a match point in the electronic document;

processing a boolean operator in the search query, wherein the boolean operator satisfies a spatial relationship when the match to the first query word before the boolean operator and the match to the first query word after the boolean operator occur within a portion of the document currently displayed in a viewable area; and

~~navigating through the electronic document to the match closest to the match point; and~~

highlighting the match closest to the match point.

26. (Original) The computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions of Claim 25, wherein the match point comprises the cursor location in the electronic document.

27. (Original) The computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions of Claim 25, wherein sorting the matches comprises sorting the matches in the match list by the page number in which the match is located in the electronic document.

28. (Original) The computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions of Claim 25, wherein the search query comprises at least two search query words, further comprising the step of processing a boolean operator in the search query.

29. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions of Claim 25, wherein ~~the step of~~ processing a boolean operator in the search query comprises:

accepting the boolean operator from the search query;

accepting a match to a first query word before the boolean operator from the match list;

accepting a match to a first query word after the boolean operator from the match list;

determining ~~[[if]]~~ when the match to the first query word before the boolean operator and the match to the first query word after the boolean operator satisfy a spatial relationship; and

removing from the match list the match to the first query word before the boolean operator and the match to the first query word after the boolean operator in response to a failure to satisfy the spatial relationship.

30. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions of Claim 25, wherein ~~the step of~~ determining if the search query word matches at least one set of characters in the electronic document comprises:

accepting one of the search query words from the search query;

retrieving one of a plurality of search query characters from the search query word;

accepting a document content character from the electronic document;

determining when the document content character is an ink character or a text character;

conducting a text character match in response to a determination that the document content character is a text character; and

conducting an ink character match in response to a determination that the first document content character is an ink character.